

## IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN

### ART. III, Chapter 16, Civil Emergencies

#### -----PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY-----

**WHEREAS,** Section 16-42 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown provides for the Mayor or, in his absence, the Mayor *pro tem*, to forthwith proclaim in writing the existence of an emergency; and

**WHEREAS,** The President of the United States declared a national state of emergency on March 13, 2020, authorizing emergency federal funds and requesting local emergency action plans be activated; and

**WHEREAS,** The Governor of South Carolina declared a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020, to enhance the state's response to the COVID-19 virus's impact on the state; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governor of South Carolina, on March 15, 2020, ordered all public schools in South Carolina to close until March 31, 2020, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), on March 15, 2020, reported 28 cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, including two cases in Horry County, which borders Georgetown County; and

**WHEREAS,** COVID-19 presents the threat of injury to persons in the City of Georgetown to such an extent that extraordinary and emergency measures may need to be taken to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS,** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control recommend steps be taken to minimize unnecessary person-to-person contact;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Mayor of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, that a Civil Emergency exists in the City of Georgetown, as is defined by Art. III, § 16-41 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that City Council members will be authorized during this State of Emergency to attend meetings of Council via teleconference or the Internet. Such meeting notices will be posted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act for councilmembers to attend by physical, virtual, or call-in attendance, in their discretion, as individuals may be included in a health-compromised class; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the credit card convenience service fees established by City Council and charged for Utilities payments paid by debit/credit card shall be immediately suspended in order to encourage people to use the on-line payment feature to minimize in-person bill paying at City Hall and that the City will pay the convenience service fees for this period; and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the City Administrator, in consultation with the Mayor, has the authority to put in place additional protective measures according to protocols from the CDC, SCDHEC, and the Georgetown County Emergency Operations Center.

Upon issuance of the Proclamation of Emergency, the Mayor, or in his absence the Mayor *pro tem* have the authority under Art. III, §16-44(9) to issue such orders in the interest of public safety and welfare as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property. All such orders issued shall expire on the sixty-first day after the date of this Proclamation, unless the State of Emergency declared by the Governor is lifted prior to that.

ATTEST:

  
Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk

  
Brendon M. Barber, Sr., Mayor

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020